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Editors, Idaho Employment

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## State Overview

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASES TO 3.5 PERCENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 3.5 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from April. It was four-tenths of a point below the 3.9 percent rate experienced one year ago. It was also 1.1 percentage points below the national unemployment rate.

The national rate decreased one-tenth of a point to 4.6 percent, down five-tenths from a year ago.

While there were fluctuations in the labor figures, the employment situation was essentially unchanged from April. The number of people working remained above 700,000 for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive month at 733,100 but down 2,500 from April. Those individuals looking for work in May increased by 600 to 26,200.

Idaho's unemployment rate has ranged between 3.2 percent and 3.5 percent throughout 2006, well below the 4 percent level most economists consider to be full employment.

The number of nonfarm jobs continued its monthly increase in 2006, rising another 1.1 percent from April to 640,900 in May. Since January over 22,000 jobs have been added. As the number of new jobs increase, unemployed workers are renewing their search for work. This spring has not been normal in many respects. The warm weather in March and April allowed many of the jobs that normally become available in May to begin in April, creating a larger than normal job increase. Since many of the jobs were already online in April, the number of new jobs in May was below seasonal expectations.

The same reasoning applies to unemployment. Since many of the usual seasonal jobs became available in April, there were not as many jobs available for those folks looking for work in May. With fewer persons employed and more persons unemployed in May, the result was a slight increase in the unemployment rate.

### AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Three of Idaho's 10 labor market areas had unemployment rates of more than 4 percent in May. Grangeville had the highest at 5 percent, up from 4.8 percent in April. Lewiston posted a 4.8 percent rate that was up from April's 4.4 percent, and Burley's unemployment rate was unchanged from April at 4.8 percent. All three rates are below the level of May 2005. Table 1 on page 3 lists the counties included in each area.

Six areas had unemployment rates between 3 percent and 4 percent in May. Coeur d'Alene and Pocatello both reported 3.6 percent rates, down from 4.2 percent a year earlier. However, while the Pocatello rate was unchanged from April, Coeur d'Alene's rate was up one-tenth of a percentage point. Hailey once again had the lowest at 2.4 percent, down slightly from 2.6 percent in April and 2.5 percent in May 2005. Idaho Falls and the Boise-Nampa metropolitan area each posted rates of 3 percent. Rexburg's unemployment rate was at 3.4 percent while the Twin Falls-Jerome was at 3.2 percent. Only Rexburg had an unemployment rate above May 2005.

## COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Of Idaho's 44 counties, only one experienced a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate greater than 7 percent in May. Three counties had unemployment rates in excess of 6 percent.

- » Clearwater at 7 percent, down from 8.3 percent in May 2005.
- » Shoshone at 6.9 percent, up from 6.7 percent in May 2005.
- » Boundary at 6.3 percent, down from 7.6 percent in May 2005.
- » Adams at 6.1 percent, down from 6.9 percent in May 2005.

Ten counties reported seasonally adjusted unemployment rates below 3 percent in May.

- » Owyhee at 2.3 percent, down from 2.5 percent in May 2005.
- » Blaine at 2.3 percent, down from 2.4 percent in May 2005.
- » Oenida at 2.4 percent, unchanged from May 2005.
- » Lewis at 2.5 percent, down from 3 percent in May 2005.
- » Teton at 2.7 percent, down from 3.9 percent in May 2005.
- » Ada at 2.8 percent, down from 3.3 percent in May 2005.
- » Bonneville at 2.9 percent, down from 3.1 percent in May 2005.
- » Madison at 2.9 percent, up from 2.8 percent in May 2005.
- » Latah at 2.9 percent, down from 3.2 percent in May 2005.
- » Boise at 2.9 percent, down from 3.9 percent in May 2005.

Fifteen other counties reported unemployment rates between 4 percent and 3 percent — Camas, Franklin, Twin Falls, Gooding, Canyon, Jerome, Custer, Bear Lake, Bannock, Jefferson, Valley, Kootenai, Washington, Bonner and Gem. Only Jefferson had an unemployment rate higher — one-tenth of a percentage point — than May 2005.

## CITY LABOR FORCE

The May unemployment rates, calculated for nine Idaho cities, where all lower than in May 2005. Lewiston experienced the highest rate at 3.7 percent, down from 4.2 percent a year earlier. The lowest rate was in Meridian at 1.8 percent, down from 2.2 percent. Twin Falls, Boise and Pocatello had unemployment rates less than 3 percent. Caldwell and Coeur d'Alene were at 3.5 percent while Nampa was at 3.4 percent

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## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture employment in Idaho increased to 45,990 in May, primarily reflecting a 3.2 percent gain in hired workers. The number of hired workers is 6.8 percent higher than May 2005, while the number of unpaid family workers and operators is unchanged. The number of agricultural workers normally increases throughout the spring until it peaks in July. Irrigators, sheepherders, ranch hands, dairy workers and landscape laborers are needed. Current information on agricultural activity is available in the *Idaho Farm Update* at [http://lmi.idaho.gov/admin/uploadedpublications/4101\\_final\\_copy\\_english.pdf](http://lmi.idaho.gov/admin/uploadedpublications/4101_final_copy_english.pdf) (in English) and [http://lmi.idaho.gov/admin/uploadedPublications/4102\\_final\\_copy\\_spanish.pdf](http://lmi.idaho.gov/admin/uploadedPublications/4102_final_copy_spanish.pdf) (in Spanish).

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Nonfarm payroll jobs grew another 6,800 in May to hit 640,900. Compared to a year earlier nonfarm jobs increased 32,000, up 5.3 percent. Over a third of the job growth from April was in the goods-producing industries at 2,500 and the rest, 4,300, came in the service sector. Job gains from May 2005 were about 3 to 1 with the service sector generating 22,800 jobs while goods-producing industries added 9,200. See State Table 2 on page 6.

Goods-producing industries accounted for 120,000 jobs in May, up from 117,500 in April and 110,800 in May 2005. That was less than one in five jobs overall during May.

### Natural Resources

Natural resources experienced an increase of 500 jobs in May. The growth was almost evenly split between mining and logging. The 2,500 mining jobs, up from both April and May 2005, reflected seasonal growth in the phosphate mines in eastern Idaho as the weather improved. The 300 new jobs in logging pushed the employment level to 1,500 as activity in forests and demand for logs increased.

### Construction

Construction accounted for the majority of growth in the goods-producing sector, generating 1,900 new jobs in May to hit a record high 52,400 jobs. Nearly 90 percent of the year-over-year growth in the goods-producing industries – 8,000 jobs – was in construction. Special trade contractors posted the largest one-month gain with 1,100 new jobs to total 33,300. That was 5,300 more than a year earlier. Building construction added 600 jobs in May, bringing the total to 12,400 or 1,900 above the May 2005 level. Heavy construction, with 6,700 jobs, added the fewest in May at 300 even as the number of highway and other

State Table 1: May 2006 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
<b>Lewiston MSA</b>	28,664	1,378	4.8	27,285
Nez Perce County	18,848	795	4.2	18,054
Asotin County, WA	9,815	584	5.9	9,232
<b>Boise City-Nampa MSA</b>	294,667	8,852	3.0	285,815
Ada County	196,005	5,582	2.8	190,423
Boise County	4,315	127	2.9	4,188
Canyon County	81,576	2,714	3.3	78,862
Gem County	7,827	315	4.0	7,512
Owyhee County	4,944	114	2.3	4,830
<b>Pocatello MSA</b>	45,832	1,653	3.6	44,179
Bannock County	42,078	1,484	3.5	40,594
Power County	3,754	169	4.5	3,585
<b>Idaho Falls MSA</b>	62,276	1,873	3.0	60,402
Bonneville County	51,264	1,482	2.9	49,783
Jefferson County	11,011	392	3.6	10,620
<b>Coeur d'Alene MSA*</b>	70,142	2,548	3.6	67,594
<b>Burley MicSA</b>	20,829	997	4.8	19,833
Cassia County	10,673	444	4.2	10,229
Minidoka County	10,156	553	5.4	9,603
<b>Rexburg MicSA</b>	20,810	707	3.4	20,104
Fremont County	6,035	275	4.6	5,760
Madison County	14,775	431	2.9	14,344
<b>Twin Falls MicSA</b>	50,547	1,619	3.2	48,928
Jerome County	10,733	362	3.4	10,371
Twin Falls County	39,813	1,257	3.2	38,557
<b>Grangeville SLMA</b>	9,174	454	5.0	8,720
Idaho County	7,362	409	5.6	6,953
Lewis County	1,812	46	2.5	1,767
<b>Hailey SLMA</b>	15,623	371	2.4	15,252
Blaine County	15,000	352	2.3	14,648
Camas County	623	19	3.1	603
Adams County	1,933	118	6.1	1,815
Bear Lake County	3,071	105	3.4	2,966
Benewah County	3,981	226	5.7	3,755
Blackfoot MicSA (Bingham County)	21,774	943	4.3	20,831
Bonner County	21,057	817	3.9	20,240
Boundary County	4,122	259	6.3	3,863
Butte County	1,232	62	5.1	1,169
Caribou County	3,284	135	4.1	3,149
Clark County	548	26	4.7	522
Clearwater County	3,422	241	7.0	3,182
Custer County	2,798	96	3.4	2,702
Mountain Home MicSA (Elmore County)	11,128	537	4.8	10,591
Franklin County	6,118	189	3.1	5,930
Gooding County	8,986	288	3.2	8,698
Moscow MicSA (Latah County)	17,214	503	2.9	16,711
Lemhi County	4,322	211	4.9	4,111
Lincoln County	2,593	109	4.2	2,484
Oneida County	2,365	57	2.4	2,308
Payette County	10,370	512	4.9	9,858
Shoshone County	5,816	400	6.9	5,416
Teton County	4,298	117	2.7	4,182
Valley County	5,152	187	3.6	4,965
Washington County	4,994	192	3.8	4,802
<b>State of Idaho</b>	<b>759,219</b>	<b>26,197</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>733,022</b>
<b>Idaho Cities</b>				
Boise	124,956	3,498	2.8	121,458
Caldwell	22,555	779	3.5	21,776
Coeur d'Alene	31,207	927	3.0	30,280
Idaho Falls	15,716	587	3.7	15,128
Lewiston	31,935	1,071	3.4	30,864
Meridian	29,531	816	2.8	28,715
Nampa	20,939	618	2.9	20,322
Pocatello	22,035	407	1.8	21,628
Twin Falls	15,572	538	3.5	15,034

\* Coeur d'Alene MSA includes all of Kootenai County.

road projects began to increase across the state. The state's comparatively slower growth compared to past years is slowing the expansion of the construction sector.

### **Manufacturing**

The number of jobs in manufacturing was basically unchanged at 63,600 in May. The addition of 100 jobs was probably due more to statistical rounding than actually economic growth. Notable are the job losses since May 2005 posted in computer and electronic products manufacturing and fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty food manufacturing. Both sectors experienced layoffs in mid-2005. Hewlett-Packard lost over 300 employees in the imaging and printing group when they voluntarily accepted severance packages about a year ago during a company-wide cutback. Those jobs have not been replaced, and growth in other areas of the company has not fully compensated for their loss. The 200 job loss in the food sector is more a result of seasonality than economic factors. Many potato processing plants experience downtime in the spring or early summer after last year's potato crop has been handled and the plants take the opportunity to do maintenance on the equipment. Once the 2006 harvest begins, the number of jobs will increase. The downtime varies from year to year.

### **Services**

Service jobs in May totaled 520,900, up 4,300 from April and 22,800 from May 2005. Government and administrative and support services added more than 1,300 jobs in May. This is the time of the year when temporary workers are hired not only by various government agencies but also by private employers to handle increased summer activity.

### **Transportation, Communication and Utilities**

Another 600 jobs since May 2005 is the most noteworthy event in the transportation, communication and utilities sector. The gain occurred in all transportation components — rail, trucking, air and water but particularly trucking where 400 jobs were added. There was only a 100-job gain in this sector from April, again with the growth in transportation. It appears that the increase in the price of fuel has not had a negative impact on truck transportation. Apparently the goods must reach the customer no matter the cost.

### **Retail Trade**

Retail trade added 800 jobs in May, bringing the total to 78,500. The big gains were in building materi-

als and garden supply stores at 300, bringing that component to 10,000. There were another 200 new jobs in food and beverage stores to total 12,400. As in previous months, the growth in building materials and garden supply is seasonal as spring and early summer are a great time to do those minor home repairs and get the garden planted. This year was no different, and the increase in population and new home construction resulted in 600 more jobs than in May 2005. The number of jobs in food and beverage stores also increased from May 2005 by 400. The number of jobs in general merchandise stores dropped slightly by 100 in May to 16,300, but this sector added the most jobs — 800 — from May 2005. Traditionally, retailers begin to hire temporary help as they gear up for the additional demand of tourists and other summer activities. The increased cost of gasoline has had an interesting impact on motor vehicle sales. The number of jobs in May was 12,100, up 100 from April and 600 jobs from May 2005. The Idaho Automobile Dealers Association reported a sales increase of more than 500 new vehicles and nearly 2,100 used vehicles between April and May. New vehicle sales were up by 1,000 over the previous year and used vehicle sales were up by over 2,300. It appears that Idahoans' love affair with their vehicles continues in spite of rising gas prices. The growth of jobs in retail trade reflects the confidence that consumers have in Idaho's economy.

### **Leisure and Hospitality**

The 61,100 jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector represented mixed activity during May. The arts, entertainment and recreation component was virtually unchanged at 9,700 jobs, adding only 100 from April. The accommodations group at 8,500 jobs was down 400 from April as transition between the winter and summer tourist season occurred. The good news is that there are 600 more jobs than at this time last year — tourism is back on the rise in Idaho. In May there were 42,900 jobs in food service and drinking places, up 900 from April and the largest increase in this sector. The year-over-year increase was 1,200 jobs. As the population rises, the major cities in Idaho are seeing new eateries, many of them national chains that are taking advantage of Idaho's growth and economic stability.

### **Educational Services**

The drop in the number of jobs from 8,500 to 7,300 in education was a result of Brigham Young University-Idaho completing its spring semester in late April, which resulted in the loss of 1,000 student jobs. The number of jobs at this four-year university will re-

main at about the same level until August when the fall semester begins. BYU-Idaho has two short summer semesters but there are fewer student job opportunities.

### Government

The increase in the number of jobs in government was in two components. The federal government added 600 new jobs as it geared up for summer tourist and fire fighting activities. The number of jobs in state government was essentially unchanged. The loss of 100 jobs in the education sector as the colleges and universities were completing their spring semester and preparing for graduation activities was offset by summer help that was being hired at the state parks and recreation facilities. The 700 new jobs in local government administration reflected cities and counties hiring for summer recreation and maintenance activities. Jobs in this area will continue to grow until July, when they peak.

### ONLINE LMI UPDATES

#### County Profiles

Idaho county profiles will have a new look and a new name within the week, but the same great data. The new name is County Work Force Trends. Each of Idaho's 44 counties, the state and a combination of rural and urban counties have labor market information facts specifically relating to them. The information includes data and narrative on population, labor force, nonfarm payroll jobs, covered employment and wages, large employers, frequently requested occupational wages and personal income. The profiles not only have a new look, but they are updated to include the most recently released population, income and employment data. The work force trends can be accessed in a PDF format online at <http://cl.idaho.gov/lmi/pubs/profilemenu.htm> or by going to Idaho Commerce & Labor's Labor Market Information Web site at <http://lmi.idaho.gov> and clicking on County & Community Profiles in the blue drop down boxes on the right side of the home page. Either link will take you to the page where you can select the county you are interested in.

#### Area LMI

The Area LMI page is your source for area labor market information within the state of Idaho. Each page is designed to help you find economic data and make informed decisions about the areas you live and work in.

The Area LMI pages have recently been updated. Log onto <http://lmi.idaho.gov> and select the Area LMI tab at the top of the page. This link takes you to an

interactive map of Idaho. Select the area of the state that you are interested in. These Web pages will provide you with a little more detail than the County Work Force Trends handout. Once you have selected one of the six areas in Idaho, you can then select a county or Commerce & Labor local office within that area. The data is for the current and previous year and includes county and city population, labor force, major nonfarm job sectors, covered wages by major industry, unemployment insurance statistics, per capita and personal income and starting wages for frequently requested occupations. There are also links to local chambers of commerce, a list of employers, a more extensive list of occupational wages, occupational projections and current happenings. The online link for the Area LMI homepage is <http://cl.idaho.gov/lmi/pubs/profilemenu.htm>, but the easiest way is to log onto <http://lmi.idaho.gov> and then click on Area LMI on the upper right of the screen.

#### Labor Force

Labor force data is provided through the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. This federal-state cooperative venture provides monthly estimates of labor force statistics — the number of persons employed, the number unemployed and the unemployment rate — for the state, county, labor market area level and selected cities. Labor force data includes the individuals who are either working or actively seeking work during any part of the week that includes the 12th of the month. It is a count of persons by where they live, not a count of jobs.

Labor force data for 2000 through May 2006 is available at <http://lmi.idaho.gov>. Click on the unemployment or employment blue drop down boxes on the left hand side of the screen and select Labor Force. This Web site has the latest labor force data and the final and benchmarked figures by month or annual average for the state, labor market areas and cities. The most recent information is posted the first Friday of the month when the unemployment rate is released.

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State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	% Change From				
	May 2006*	Apr 2006	May 2005	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	640,900	634,100	608,900	1.1	5.3
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	120,000	117,500	110,800	2.1	8.3
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	4,000	3,500	3,800	14.3	5.3
Logging	1,500	1,200	1,600	25.0	-6.3
Mining	2,500	2,300	2,200	8.7	13.6
Metal Ore Mining	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
<b>Construction</b>	52,400	50,500	44,400	3.8	18.0
<b>Manufacturing</b>	63,600	63,500	62,600	0.2	1.6
Durable Goods	41,400	41,200	40,100	0.5	3.2
Wood Product Manufacturing	7,900	7,800	7,500	1.3	5.3
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,600	2,600	2,600	0.0	0.0
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,800	1,700	1,500	5.9	20.0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,500	3,500	3,400	0.0	2.9
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,200	4,200	3,800	0.0	10.5
Machinery Manufacturing	2,700	2,700	2,600	0.0	3.8
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	16,100	16,100	16,400	0.0	-1.8
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,300	3,200	2,900	3.1	13.8
Other Durable Goods	7,200	7,200	6,900	0.0	4.3
Nondurable Goods	22,200	22,300	22,500	-0.4	-1.3
Food Manufacturing	14,200	14,200	14,300	0.0	-0.7
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	6,900	7,000	7,100	-1.4	-2.8
Paper Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,800	1,900	1,900	-5.3	-5.3
Chemical Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	2,700	2,700	2,800	0.0	-3.6
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	520,900	516,600	498,100	0.8	4.6
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	126,100	125,100	121,600	0.8	3.7
Trade	106,700	105,800	102,800	0.9	3.8
Wholesale Trade	28,200	28,100	26,800	0.4	5.2
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	13,200	13,000	12,400	1.5	6.5
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	12,300	12,400	12,000	-0.8	2.5
Retail Trade	78,500	77,700	76,000	1.0	3.3
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,100	12,000	11,500	0.8	5.2
Building Material and Garden Equipment	10,000	9,700	9,400	3.1	6.4
Food & Beverage Stores	12,400	12,200	12,000	1.6	3.3
General Merchandise Stores	16,300	16,400	15,500	-0.6	5.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	19,400	19,300	18,800	0.5	3.2
Utilities	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Transportation & Warehousing	17,400	17,300	16,900	0.6	3.0
Rail Transportation	1,100	1,100	1,100	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	8,900	8,800	8,500	1.1	4.7
<b>Information</b>	11,300	11,100	11,100	1.8	1.8
Telecommunications	4,600	4,600	4,400	0.0	4.5
<b>Financial Activities</b>	31,800	31,600	29,100	0.6	9.3
Finance & Insurance	23,200	23,100	21,200	0.4	9.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	8,600	8,500	7,900	1.2	8.9
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	81,700	80,400	77,300	1.6	5.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	31,200	31,400	30,100	-0.6	3.7
Scientific Research & Development	7,200	7,100	7,500	1.4	-4.0
Management of Companies & Enterprises	8,100	8,000	7,600	1.3	6.6
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	42,400	41,000	39,600	3.4	7.1
Administrative & Support Services	40,300	39,000	38,300	3.3	5.2
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	69,500	70,200	67,100	-1.0	3.6
Educational Services	7,300	8,500	7,400	-14.1	-1.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	62,200	61,700	59,700	0.8	4.2
Hospitals	13,400	13,500	13,000	-0.7	3.1
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	61,100	60,500	57,000	1.0	7.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9,700	9,600	7,400	1.0	31.1
Accommodation & Food Services	51,400	50,900	49,600	1.0	3.6
Accommodation	8,500	8,900	7,900	-4.5	7.6
Food Services & Drinking Places	42,900	42,000	41,700	2.1	2.9
<b>Other Services</b>	19,100	18,900	18,400	1.1	3.8
<b>Total Government</b>	120,300	118,800	116,500	1.3	3.3
Federal Government	12,500	11,900	12,900	5.0	-3.1
State & Local Government	107,800	106,900	103,600	0.8	4.1
State Government	30,400	30,400	28,700	0.0	5.9
State Government Education	14,700	14,800	13,400	-0.7	9.7
State Government Administration	15,700	15,600	15,300	0.6	2.6
Local Government	77,400	76,500	74,900	1.2	3.3
Local Government Education	40,600	40,500	39,500	0.2	2.8
Local Government Administration	33,800	33,100	32,500	2.1	4.0
Local Government Tribes	3,000	2,900	2,900	3.4	3.4

\*Preliminary Estimate

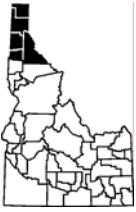
\*\* Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.



## State Table 3: Economic Indicators

				% Change From	
	May 2006	Apr 2006	May 2005	Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	759,200	761,100	736,600	-0.2	3.1
Unemployment	26,200	25,600	28,800	2.3	-9.0
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.4	3.9		
Total Employment	733,000	735,500	707,800	-0.3	3.6
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	757,900	756,000	735,200	0.3	3.1
Unemployment	22,700	27,600	25,500	-17.8	-11.0
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	3.7	3.5		
Total Employment	735,200	728,400	709,700	0.9	3.6
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <sup>(2)</sup>					
	4.6	4.7	5.1		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX <sup>(2)</sup>					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	198.2	197.2	190.0	0.5	4.3
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	202.5	201.5	194.4	0.5	4.2
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	45,990	44,880	43,690	2.5	5.3
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	360	350	360	2.9	0.0
Hired Workers	35,890	34,790	33,590	3.2	6.8
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<b>Claims Activities</b>					
Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	5,028	6,269	6,571	-19.8	-23.5
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	42,745	51,371	57,235	-16.8	-25.3
<b>Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup></b>					
Weeks Compensated	34,271	42,610	40,207	-19.6	-14.8
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$7,840,165	\$10,046,133	\$8,994,180	-22.0	-12.8
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$228.77	\$235.77	\$223.70	-3.0	2.3
Covered Employers	48,156	47,801	45,037	0.7	6.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$119,746,448	\$120,900,464	\$138,463,584	-1.0	-13.5
(1) Preliminary Estimate					
(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics					
(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims					
(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent					
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liabile Activities					





# Panhandle News

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

After two years of extremely rapid job growth, Kootenai County's economy is slowing but remains strong. The county added about 3,200 nonfarm payroll jobs in both 2004 and 2005, reflecting annual job growth of 6.8 percent. Between May 2005 and May 2006, it added 2,270 jobs, a growth rate of 4.3 percent. While not as robust as the two preceding years, growth still is occurring at a relatively fast clip. Nationally, nonfarm payroll jobs grew 1.4 percent in the same period.

Almost all industries are expanding as shown in Panhandle Table 1. Construction continues to be the largest source of new jobs, adding about 650 between May 2005 and May 2006. Next comes retail, which added 360 jobs at a variety of stores. The opening of Northern Idaho Advanced Care Hospital in Post Falls plus the addition of 200 jobs by other medical and social-service providers accounted for 320 new jobs in education and health services. The US Bank customer service center, which opened last summer in Coeur d'Alene, is responsible for most of the 240 new jobs in financial services. The others come from increased employment with bank branches and real estate agencies. That number does not show the large growth in real estate agents, who are self-employed and therefore not on anyone's payroll.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonner County

- Kootenai Medical Center, the 246-bed hospital in Coeur d'Alene, plans to expand its cancer services to Sandpoint. The medical center hopes to open a 4,000 square-foot satellite center inside Bonner General Hospital in Sandpoint by late fall. Like most smaller hospitals, the 48-bed Sandpoint hospital has found creating its own oncology department cost-prohibitive so Bonner and Boundary county residents with cancer must go to Coeur d'Alene for care. That travel time involves considerable expense and can increase the exhaustion of cancer patients. For the last two years, the medical center has

Panhandle Table 1: Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Kootenai County

	May 2006*	Apr 2006	May 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	70,140	70,050	68,740	0.1	2.0
Unemployed	2,550	2,460	2,860	3.7	-10.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6%	3.5%	4.2%		
Total Employment	67,590	67,590	65,880	0.0	2.6
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	69,820	68,990	68,380	1.2	2.1
Unemployed	2,120	2,680	2,430	-20.9	-12.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0%	3.9%	3.6%		
Total Employment	67,700	66,310	65,950	2.1	2.7
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	54,980	54,000	52,710	1.8	4.3
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	10,950	10,670	10,150	2.6	7.9
Natural Resources & Mining	470	390	400	20.5	17.5
Construction	5,860	5,650	5,210	3.7	12.5
Manufacturing	4,620	4,630	4,540	-0.2	1.8
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,050	1,070	1,030	-1.9	1.9
Other Manufacturing	3,570	3,550	3,510	0.6	1.7
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	44,030	43,330	42,560	1.6	3.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9,870	9,750	9,440	1.2	4.6
Wholesale Trade	1,410	1,410	1,330	0.0	6.0
Retail Trade	7,480	7,390	7,120	1.2	5.1
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	980	950	990	3.2	-1.0
Information	970	970	1,030	0.0	-5.8
Financial Activities	2,870	2,880	2,630	-0.3	9.1
Professional & Business Services	6,280	6,140	6,110	2.3	2.8
Educational & Health Services	5,560	5,570	5,240	-0.2	6.1
Leisure & Hospitality	7,420	7,000	7,290	6.0	1.8
Other Services	1,520	1,500	1,460	1.3	4.1
Government Education	3,730	3,760	3,620	-0.8	3.0
Government Administration	5,100	5,060	5,060	0.8	0.8
Government Tribes	710	700	680	1.4	4.4

\* Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

operated a two-day-a-week clinic at Creekside Health Center in Sandpoint, but it has not kept up with the rising demand from Bonner and Boundary counties and does not offer as many services as the new clinic will. When the new clinic opens, the existing clinic will close, and its staff will join a newly recruited oncologist, nurse practitioner and other workers at the new clinic, which will be open five days a week. Once remodeled, the Sandpoint space will include four examination rooms, two doctor offices, a pharmacy and an eight-bed infusion suite where patients will receive chemotherapy. Work should start before Labor Day and cost up to \$460,000. Bonner General will provide radiology services, diagnostic testing, social services and emergency and after-hours care to Kootenai Medical Center cancer patients in the Sandpoint location.

- The Sandpoint office of Idaho Commerce & Labor partnered with the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce and the Bonner County Daily Bee to hold the largest job fair ever in Bonner County. Fifty-two employers, including most of the area's fastest-growing businesses, had booths at the June 1 job fair at the Bonner County Fairgrounds. More than 600 job seekers attended.
- On Memorial Day weekend, David and Teri Pool opened Korner Market next to the newly remodeled Korner Club Restaurant and Bar at the corner of Highway 57 and Luby Bay Road in Priest Lake. The new store offers a wide selection of high quality groceries, including fresh meats and seafood, local organic fruits and vegetables and wines and beers. It also contains a candy store for kids of all ages and a gift store selling items made by local artists. The restaurant, also owned by the Pools, serves steaks, burgers, pizza, salad, ice cream and espresso.
- Jamie Stidham recently opened Evolution Fitness for Women, a center with state-of-art equipment for resistance and cardiovascular exercise. The center also offers Pilates, yoga and classes in neuromuscular integrative action, a cardiovascular activity combining martial arts and dance. The fitness center in Ponderay caters to a wide variety of ages and fitness levels.

### Boundary County

- On May 17, Bonners Ferry residents and many farmers began to worry about the rising Kootenai River, which flows through the county's most populated area and along some of its most productive farm land. The rising water damaged levees, increasing concerns. Local, state and federal agencies responded as did hundreds of volunteers. Sandbags were piled up to protect farmland, low-lying roads, houses along the river and parts of downtown Bonners Ferry including the Kootenai River Inn & Casino. After weeks of worry, the river went above flood stage of 1,765 feet on June 17, peaked at 1,767 feet and began receding on June 21. High water and seepage caused up to \$8 million in crop damage along with significant loss of topsoil, which will reduce the quality of future crops. As the river recedes, it is leaving behind large pools of standing water that could breed mosquitoes, which may carry West Nile disease. The Army Corps of Engineers estimates that it will cost about \$54 million to repair the levees.
- With its population growing and tourism flourishing, Bonners Ferry is a great place to start new businesses. Nita Hilliard is one of several entrepreneurs to take the leap. She recently opened Mercari Gifts. Her specialty gift store displays items from her catalogues including porcelain dolls, western art, home decorations, bath products and gifts for children. Under the Sun opened May 5 in downtown Bonners Ferry. The store, owned by Shelley Yount, sells clothing, art, coffee, tea and gifts. It also has a lunch counter serving sandwiches, salads, wraps and organic espresso. In early May, Michael Boge

opened his new business, Zip's drive-in, in a building formerly occupied by the "R" Place fast food restaurant. The Zip's chain serves burgers, fries, shakes and other fast food. Kelly Mentado and Patricia Vollendroff opened Nichole's Food Mart, Jack-n-Pat's restaurant and a Conoco gas station in a shared building on U.S. Highway 95 South in early June. Boundary County's first artist's co-op, Groove Studio, celebrated its grand opening June 3 in the newly renovated Randall Day Building. On sale are paintings, sculpture, jewelry, photography and furniture made by local artists. Owners Sam and Carolyn Testa hope it will synergize downtown Bonners Ferry.

### Kootenai County

- Coeur d'Alene hosted the Ironman Triathlon on June 25. More than 2,000 participants from all over the world swam 2.4 miles in Lake Coeur d'Alene, rode their bicycles 112 miles and then ran a 26.2-mile marathon between 7 a.m. and midnight. The Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce estimates that the Ironman brings about \$5 million to the Coeur d'Alene-Spokane area. Hotels along Interstate 90 from the Spokane airport to Wallace were flashing "No Vacancy" signs by the Thursday before the event, which also was the same weekend as Spokane's HoopFest. Traditionally, hotels in the area had quite a few openings until tourists started pouring in around the Fourth of July. This was the fourth year that Ironman was held in Coeur d'Alene. Under its current contract with Ironman North America, Coeur d'Alene also will host next June's triathlon. Ironman North America has announced that it would like to continue to hold the triathlon in Coeur d'Alene, and another five-year contract is being negotiated.
- The internationally known artist, Thomas Kinkade, came to Coeur d'Alene in June for the ground-breaking on a residential development featuring five houses identical to manor houses in his paintings. The houses in the Gates of Coeur d'Alene development will occupy hillside lots near Wolf Lodge with views of Lake Coeur d'Alene and cost about \$5 million each.
- Harrison, a town of 282 residents on the eastern shore of south Lake Coeur d'Alene, continues to add more services for tourists. Its location on the 79-mile Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes, following the rail line that used to run from Plummer to Mullan, makes it a haven for bicyclists and lake enthusiasts. That's why Dana Bird opened Northwest Rentals on Memorial Day weekend. The shop, located below Rose's Landing, rents Surreys — six-wheeled cycles resembling carriages—and "hotshots" — three-wheeled cycles. Rusty and Teri Riberich recently opened Hi Water Adventures Inc. in an office overlooking Harrison's City Park, where they rent powerboats and kayaks. Before it opened, the nearest boat rental was in Coeur d'Alene.
- Advanced Input Systems, a manufacturer employing 320 people in Coeur d'Alene, has developed an infec-

tion-control keyboard that is being marketed under the brand name Medigenic. Designed for hospitals and medical offices, the keyboard keeps track of how much it's been used and reminds people to clean it and its mouse. A disable key allows the keyboard to remain on while it is being cleaned. Both the keyboard and mouse can be cleaned with strong disinfectants, reducing the risk of spreading infectious diseases. With hospital-acquired infections on the rise, the new keyboard is likely to sell extremely well. Advanced Input Systems makes custom control panels, keyboards and other input devices for the health-care, electronics and defense industries.

- The geographic heart of Kootenai County's health-care industry is the Ironwood area around Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene. More than 1,650 people work at the hospital, and another 1,700 people work at clinics, medical offices and other health-care service providers in the Ironwood area. Now another concentration of medical services is emerging in Post Falls, where Northwest Specialty Hospital, North Idaho Immediate Care, various clinics and doctors' offices are located. Together, these medical enterprises employ about 420 people. One of the latest additions is a 21,000 square-foot building of Little Smiles Pediatric Dentistry, which moved from downtown; Jaeger Curtis Orthodontics, which is expanding from Coeur d'Alene; Access Endodontic Specialists, which is moving from Ironwood in September; Spokane Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, which is expanding from its two Spokane locations, and the office of Dr. Les Timm, who is opening an office this fall for complex dentistry and facial reconstruction.
- Since 1995, the number of bank and credit union branches serving Kootenai County has risen from 30 to 46, and more are on the way. Spokane Teachers Credit Union broke ground on an 8,960 square-foot branch in Post Falls in June. It will be the credit union's first branch in Idaho. When it opens in December, it will hire up to 15 people.
- The high level of construction activity in Kootenai County is fostering the opening and expansion of building material, household appliance and related stores. Window World recently opened a 1,740 square-foot outlet selling windows, doors and vinyl siding in Coeur d'Alene, and Idaho Lights is building an 8,000 square-foot store, which will sell commercial and residential lighting fixtures when it opens this fall in Coeur d'Alene.
- Two restaurants entered the Coeur d'Alene market in June. Bullfrog's, a New York-style deli also offering fruit juices and protein shakes, opened in the back of the Eclectic Artisans Gallery on Coeur d'Alene Avenue. The Panda Express chain opened a quick-service restaurant serving Chinese food. Kootenai County is home to about 250 restaurants, employing 4,600 people. In the county, there are about 1.84 restaurants for every 1,000 people compared to 1.46 restaurants for every 1,000 people nationally. The difference indicates how

much more important tourists are to the Kootenai County economy than to the U.S. economy.

- Puttin' Around, an 18-hole miniature golf course, recently opened in Post Falls.

### Shoshone County

- When Idaho Gov. Jim Risch visited Wallace on June 23, he brought a \$100,000 grant from Idaho Commerce & Labor to help fix a city street where a large portion of the roadway has begun slipping away from the main road. A harsh winter followed by a rainy spring caused the slippage. Combined with another \$100,000 grant from the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, the grant will pay most of the \$225,000 required to construct a retaining wall, install base rock, new drainage and sewers and lay new pavement.
- Gov. Jim Risch presented a check to the Central Shoshone Water District on June 23 representing a \$450,000 Community Development Block grant. The money will help the district defray the \$1 million cost of replacing two 100-year-old water tanks in Wardner. In the Kingston area, where new developments require the district to increase capacity, it is replacing two water pumps that pump 3,800 gallons of water per minute. The new pumps will pump 7,000 gallons of water per minute.
- High-speed Internet access has been on Shoshone County's economic development wish list for a few years, and now Thin Air Online is bringing wireless, high-speed Internet access to the Silver Valley. Using broadband fiber optics, it will offer faster Internet connections than current servers. Faster Internet services can help existing businesses increase their productivity and attract new businesses that require high-speed Internet. Thin Air Online currently is erecting more Internet reception towers in the Silver Valley. It hopes to eventually expand outside the Silver Valley to provide Internet service to other rural areas of northern Idaho and western Montana.

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# North Central Idaho News

CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Lewiston Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May increased to 4.8 percent from April's 4.4 percent as shown in North Central Idaho Table 1. In May 2005 the rate was 5.2 percent. Nonfarm payroll jobs in May decreased by 130 from April. The drop reflected job losses in government, professional and business services.

## SPECIAL TOPIC: Projected Employment Opportunities

Through surveys, research and analysis, Idaho Commerce & Labor has identified specific future job opportunities, including occupations that are the fastest growing, have high employment and are in high demand. These are also the occupations that are short on qualified applicants, according to employers. They include jobs emerging from new business in the region. A short list of these projected occupation opportunities are listed in North Central Idaho Table 2 on page 12. They are listed alphabetically, not according to a ranking order. A broader list of 538 occupations is available on the Idaho Commerce & Labor LMI Web site at <http://lmi.idaho.gov>.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Latah County

- By this time next year, Palouse farmers could be hauling their canola crops to the Port of Wilma to be turned into biodiesel. Wi Bio Fuels will break ground on a canola crushing plant Aug. 1 at the port on the Snake River. Virgin canola will be the main crop used to produce the biodiesel fuel. Canola seed is crushed, and oil is extracted and processed into biodiesel that can be used in most diesel engines

North Central Idaho Table 1: Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	May 2006*	Apr 2006	May 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,670	28,810	29,580	-0.5	-3.1
Unemployment	1,380	1,280	1,530	7.8	-9.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.4	5.2		
Total Employment	27,290	27,530	28,050	-0.9	-2.7
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,540	28,830	29,440	-1.0	-3.1
Unemployment	1,160	1,300	1,300	-10.8	-10.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.5	4.4		
Total Employment	27,380	27,530	28,140	-0.5	-2.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	26,730	26,860	27,320	-0.5	-2.2
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,340	4,330	4,560	0.2	-4.8
Natural Resources & Mining	190	200	170	-5.0	11.8
Construction	1,200	1,170	1,420	2.6	-15.5
Manufacturing	2,950	2,960	2,970	-0.3	-0.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	540	530	560	1.9	-3.6
Food Manufacturing	30	30	40	0.0	-25.0
Paper Manufacturing	1,100	1,110	1,130	-0.9	-2.7
Other Manufacturing	1,280	1,290	1,240	-0.8	3.2
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	22,390	22,530	22,760	-0.6	-1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,470	5,440	5,420	0.6	0.9
Wholesale Trade	670	670	670	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	3,470	3,450	3,460	0.6	0.3
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,240	1,230	1,200	0.8	3.3
Information	440	430	420	2.3	4.8
Financial Activities	1,840	1,840	1,810	0.0	1.7
Professional & Business Services	1,530	1,610	1,710	-5.0	-10.5
Education & Health Services	4,460	4,510	4,480	-1.1	-0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	2,340	2,310	2,550	1.3	-8.2
Other Services	1,120	1,110	1,120	0.9	0.0
Government Education	2,530	2,560	2,490	-1.2	1.6
Government Administration	1,920	1,990	2,040	-3.5	-5.9
Government Tribes	740	730	720	1.4	2.8

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

without modification. Farmers say the plant could help them get through a tough time. However, farmers also face the challenges of crop yields, prices and storage. Farmers need to make 13 to 15 cents per pound to make a profit. The new plant expects to offer contracted competitive prices, but crushing plants can buy Canadian canola for 8 to 10 cents per pound.

## Nez Perce and Asotin Counties

- Potlatch Corp.'s forestry management practices have earned the company the Idaho GEM Stars award, which recognizes efforts to care for the environment. Potlatch is Idaho's largest private landowner, managing 667,000 acres. The company adopted the environmental management system to protect the market value of its timber and minimize environmental impact from logging operations. Potlatch's land is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Dr. Michael Reznicek of Lewiston quit his job as a psychiatrist at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center last year to pour his energy into his business, Data Rezolution. The new company sells computer software that trains parents to determine if their teenage children are using drugs. After struggling to get the business off the ground, Data Rezolution's Web site, <http://www.savemyteen.org>, just tipped more than 200 contacts per month. In addition, Data Rezolution landed its first large wholesale deal recently to Testmyteen.com, a Web site that sells home drug-testing supplies. Local pharmacies are another customer for Data Rezolution as the pharmacies receive a significant amount of calls from parents with questions about drug testing their teenagers, says Brian Auer, pharmacy manager of the Owl Southway in Lewiston. "We never had good advice to give them." Reznicek's software has enough information to guide parents through the process, Auer says. The Owl has started to sell drug tests but only with the software, Auer says. The growing sales are a relief for Reznicek, and the business finally turned a profit in June.
- Coleman Oil in Lewiston will be selling biodiesel blends at its retail fuel stations. The company landed a \$100,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Water Resources Energy Division that will cover about half the cost of a rail transfer, storage

and blending center. Coleman Oil already sells bio-diesel blends to wholesale customers within its market territory that extends south to Grangeville, north to Bonners Ferry, east to Kooskia and west to Yakima. The new center, a series of pipes and tanks, will allow Coleman Oil to accept biodiesel shipments from trains instead of just trucks, which should lower costs and make the fuel more popular. Biodiesel is typically about 10 to 12 cents per gallon more expensive than standard diesel fuel, even with a \$1 per gallon federal subsidy. Biodiesel blends can be used in diesel engines and heating oil furnaces with little or no modification. Coleman Oil will mix the biodiesel with regular diesel in combinations that normally will have 2 percent to 5 percent of the alternative fuel. In the future, the oil company will invest in additional infrastructure so it can sell biodiesel at its 20 to 25 retail outlets in eastern Washington, north central and northern Idaho.

- Eddie Bauer, an 85-year-old Northwest company that specializes in casual outdoor apparel and accessories, has applied for a building permit in Lewiston. As proposed, the 6,500 square-foot store will be built at Nez Perce Plaza near three other new stores that will open in July — Pier 1 Imports, Famous Footwear and Ross Dress for Less. Eddie Bauer's proposal is for a moderately sized retail store similar to Famous Footwear. In comparison, the Pier 1 store is almost 9,000 square feet, and Ross will have a little more than 30,000 square feet. Site plans for the Nez Perce Plaza show spaces for three more stores, two of them in the 30,000 square-foot range.

\* *Note: Projected occupation opportunities are listed in North Central Idaho Table 2 on page 13.*

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## WEB SITE PACKED WITH LABOR MARKET RESOURCES

Idaho's Labor Market Information Web site — <http://lmi.idaho.gov> — is a key source for economic information about Idaho and how it compares to the U.S. on a variety of topics. The Web site has proven essential to businesses, students, job seekers, economic analysts and others. Find out for yourself.



North Central Idaho Table 2: Projected Employment Opportunities

Industry	Avg. Hourly Wage	Required Education
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	\$13.81	Postsecondary vocational training
Bakers	\$10.44	Long-term on-the-job training
Bartenders	\$6.62	Short-term on-the-job training
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	\$13.44	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Carpenters	\$15.50	Long-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	\$7.32	Short-term on-the-job training
Child Care Workers	\$7.68	Short-term on-the-job training
Computer Support Specialists	\$14.26	Associate degree
Construction Laborers	N/A	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Cooks, Restaurant	\$7.51	Long-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	\$11.72	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Dental Assistants	\$10.47	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Drafter, Engineering & Mapping Technicians, All Other	\$16.69	Associate degree
Electrical & Electronic Technicians & Technologists	\$16.37	Associate degree
Electricians	\$19.51	Long-term on-the-job training
Executive Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	\$14.85	Postsecondary vocational training
Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	\$14.52	Long-term on-the-job training
Health Aides	\$9.24	Short-term on-the-job training
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	\$12.90	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.86	Short-term on-the-job training
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	\$9.75	Short-term on-the-job training
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$15.04	Long-term on-the-job training
Medical & Health Services Managers	\$32.84	Work experience plus bachelor's or higher degree
Medical Assistants	\$12.78	Short-term on-the-job training
Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	\$12.23	Associate degree
Office Clerks, General	\$11.19	Short-term on-the-job training
Plumbers, Pipefitters & Steamfitters	\$17.09	Long-term on-the-job training
Police Patrol Officers	\$14.48	Long-term on-the-job training
Production Workers	\$12.06	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Receptionists & Information Clerks	\$9.02	Short-term on-the-job training
Recreation Workers	\$9.73	Bachelor's degree
Registered Nurses	\$22.56	Bachelor's degree
Retail Salespersons	\$10.23	N/A
Security Guards	\$7.97	Short-term on-the-job training
Systems analysts	\$23.95	Bachelor's degree
Teachers & Instructors	\$35,512/annual	Bachelor's degree
Tellers	\$9.54	N/A
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$18.19	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Waiters & Waitresses	\$7.20	Short-term on-the-job training
Welders & Cutters	\$12.58	Long-term on-the-job training





# Southwestern Idaho News

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area for May 2006 was unchanged from April at 3 percent. May's unemployment rate was a half percentage point lower than May 2005. The civilian labor force increased by 2,300 from April, pushing further above the 290,000 level for the second month in row. Total employment increased 2,100 while the ranks of unemployed job seekers rose by 200. That kept the jobless rate stable over the two months. The unemployment rate is at historic lows in the metropolitan area. Three percent is nearing the point to where it will likely be difficult to move much lower. The busy summer season of construction and tourism have arrived, and the labor force and total employment should continue grow.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in the area continued rising in May, albeit by slightly less than April's increase. May saw 2,400 new jobs, and over the past year, nonfarm jobs are up 8.7 percent, or more than 21,000. Contrary to recent months, construction

**Southwestern Idaho Table 2: May 2006  
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwestern Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unemployed	Percent Unemployed	Number Employed
Ada	196,005	5,582	2.8	190,423
Adams	1,933	118	6.1	1,815
Boise	4,315	127	2.9	4,188
Canyon	81,576	2,714	3.3	78,862
Elmore	11,128	537	4.8	10,591
Gem	7,827	315	4.0	7,512
Owyhee	4,944	114	2.3	4,830
Payette	10,370	512	4.9	9,858
Valley	5,152	187	3.6	4,965
Washington	4,994	192	3.8	4,802
Statewide	759,219	26,197	3.5	733,022

**Southwestern Idaho Table 1: Boise City-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment (Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties)**

	May 2006*	Apr 2006	May 2005	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	294,700	292,400	283,600	1	4
Unemployment	8,900	8,700	9,800	2.3	-9.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	3.0	3.5		
Total Employment	285,800	283,700	273,800	0.7	4.4
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	294,500	291,400	283,400	1.1	3.9
Unemployment	7,800	8,800	8,800	-11.4	-11.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.6	3.0	3.1		
Total Employment	286,700	282,600	274,600	1.5	4.4
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	268,700	266,300	247,300	0.9	8.7
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	53,100	52,400	49,500	1.3	7.3
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</b>	22,400	21,900	19,600	2.3	14.3
Construction	22,100	21,700	19,300	1.8	14.5
<b>Manufacturing</b>	30,700	30,500	29,900	0.7	2.7
Durable Goods	24,500	24,300	23,700	0.8	3.4
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,200	2,200	2,200	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,500	1,500	1,300	0.0	15.4
Machinery Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,000	14,000	14,400	0.0	-2.8
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,400	2,400	2,100	0.0	14.3
Other Durable Goods	3,200	3,000	2,500	6.7	28.0
Nondurable Goods	6,200	6,200	6,200	0.0	0.0
Food Manufacturing	4,200	4,300	4,400	-2.3	-4.5
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,300	1,200	1,100	8.3	18.2
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	215,600	213,900	197,800	0.8	9.0
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	52,600	51,900	48,200	1.3	9.1
Trade	45,000	44,400	41,200	1.4	9.2
Wholesale Trade	12,500	12,300	11,400	1.6	9.6
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	7,400	7,300	6,900	1.4	7.2
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	3,600	3,600	3,500	0.0	2.9
Retail Trade	32,500	32,100	29,800	1.2	9.1
Food & Beverage Stores	4,500	4,400	4,300	2.3	4.7
General Merchandise Stores	6,300	6,200	6,000	1.6	5.0
All Other Retail Trade	21,700	21,500	19,500	0.9	11.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,600	7,500	7,000	1.3	8.6
Utilities	600	600	600	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	7,000	6,900	6,400	1.4	9.4
<b>Information</b>	5,200	5,200	5,200	0.0	0.0
Telecommunications	2,500	2,500	2,200	0.0	13.6
<b>Financial Activities</b>	14,800	14,800	8,400	0.0	76.2
Finance & Insurance	10,300	10,200	4,500	1.0	128.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,500	4,600	3,900	-2.2	15.4
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	38,100	38,200	36,900	-0.3	3.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	11,100	11,300	10,600	-1.8	4.7
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,900	5,800	5,600	1.7	5.4
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	21,100	21,100	20,700	0.0	1.9
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	32,200	32,000	31,000	0.6	3.9
Educational Services	3,100	3,100	2,800	0.0	10.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	29,100	28,900	28,200	0.7	3.2
Hospitals	9,400	9,400	9,100	0.0	3.3
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	23,400	22,900	22,100	2.2	5.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,300	3,200	2,700	3.1	22.2
Accommodation & Food Services	20,100	19,700	19,400	2.0	3.6
Accommodation	2,200	2,100	2,100	4.8	4.8
Food Services & Drinking Places	17,900	17,600	17,300	1.7	3.5
<b>Other Services</b>	7,400	7,300	6,200	1.4	19.4
<b>Total Government</b>	41,900	41,600	39,800	0.7	5.3
Federal Government	5,600	5,500	5,800	1.8	-3.4
State & Local Government	36,300	36,100	34,000	0.6	6.8
State Government	13,900	13,900	13,400	0.0	3.7
State Government Education	4,800	4,800	4,600	0.0	4.3
State Government Administration	9,100	9,100	8,800	0.0	3.4
Local Government	22,400	22,200	20,600	0.9	8.7
Local Government Education	14,200	14,000	12,800	1.4	10.9
Local Government Administration	8,200	8,200	7,800	0.0	5.1

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month



slowed, reflecting industry concern over the past several months that workers are becoming scarce. There is plenty of work, but contractors are having a difficult time finding enough qualified workers. Despite this, construction added 16.7 percent of the new jobs in May while only making up 8.2 percent of total nonfarm jobs.

Two industries that experienced strong job growth in May were both wholesale and retail trade as the busy summer shopping season arrived. With new retail businesses opening at a rapid pace and the construction season now in full swing, the growth is expected and welcome. Leisure and hospitality businesses were a significant contributor to job creation in May as restaurants and bars geared up for the busy summer tourist season. In addition, area recreational attractions hired more workers to serve the many additional customers during the summer. The May 2006 civilian labor force and total employment figures for all 10 counties in southwestern Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2 on page 13.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Boise MSA

- Shareholders of Lexar Media Inc. recently approved a bid from Micron to purchase the company. Seventy percent of the votes cast were in favor of the buyout worth approximately \$790 million. This purchase of Lexar will allow Micron to sell NAND flash memory products directly to retailers through Lexar's already established networks. NAND flash memory is able to retain and store information when power is shut off. NAND is used in devices such as iPods, cellular phones and digital cameras.
- During its last fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 2005, the Greater Boise Auditorium District experienced a 10 percent increase in room tax collections that totaled almost \$3 million. In the current fiscal year, room tax collections are currently running \$74,000 above last year at the same time, an increase of 5.5 percent.
- Construction crews have started a \$500,000 renovation project on the 99-year-old Caldwell Train Depot. The project is financed by a grant from the Idaho Transportation Department. Exterior brick is being regouted, the trim repainted, the hardwood floors refinished and the windows repaired and reglazed. The depot will also get updated plumbing, heating and air conditioning as well as new lighting. The work could be finished in time for Caldwell's Indian Creek Festival in mid-September. Another \$166,000 grant will pay for a new roof, dormer windows and a new ticket counter over the next 18 months.
- Over the last year and a half, 35 airplane hangars have been added to the Caldwell Industrial Airport. This is significant considering there were only approximately 165 hangars built between 1975 when

the airport first opened and late 2004. A robust local economy and keen interest in flying within the area have been credited for the airport's recent rapid growth.

- Aluma-Glass has recently moved its operations and 35 employees to Boise from Nampa. The company sold its building in Nampa, a 122,000 square-foot manufacturing facility, to a local investment group. The facility was no longer needed after Aluma-Glass stopped making vinyl windows. The company still manufactures aluminum commercial windows and owns a glass and glazing company specializing in retail storefronts.
- The cost of living in the metropolitan area in May increased by 0.4 percent after rising 1.1 percent in April. May's increase is largely due to rising fuel prices that drove transportation costs up 1.7 percent. Nationally, the Consumer Price Index increased 0.5 percent in May.
- Developers have targeted land southeast of Boise for some major developments in the near future. They are currently working on 11 planned communities to be built on 23,000 acres just south of the city of Boise's impact area. The 11 proposed communities range in size from 535 acres to 5,881 acres.
- With the region's building boom has come the inevitable – a shortage of workers. Many area construction companies are having a difficult time finding workers and are even turning down projects because of it. Some contractors are offering expanded benefits and quarterly or annual bonuses to entice workers onto their payrolls and keep them from going out of state.
- Boise and Wilder will host this year's World Potato Congress. It is the organization's first meeting ever held in the United States. Wilder will host an international equipment exhibit as well as a demonstration farm show. Boise will be hosting the seminar and workshop portion of the event Aug. 21-26.
- MotivePower of Boise recently won a \$21 million contract to remanufacture 16 commuter locomotives for Pacific Harbor Line Inc. in Southern California. MotivePower will be fitting the locomotives with 2,000 horsepower diesel engines designed to reduce exhaust emissions.

### Valley County

- Tamarack Resort recently reported \$8.4 million in operating revenues during the fiscal year that ended April 30. The resort also disclosed that expenses were greater than revenues during this time but declined to specify by how much. Sixty percent of the operating revenue came in during the ski season from November through April. In addition, 127 certificates of occupancy have been issued by Valley

County to resort homeowners, and the resort itself has received 32 certificates of occupancy for various operations and hotel rooms.

- Voters in the McCall-Donnelly School District recently passed a \$28.5 million school bond to build a new elementary school in McCall, restore and expand the McCall-Donnelly High School, add on to the Donnelly Elementary School and buy new equipment and furniture. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2007.
- Land values in Valley County continue to escalate rapidly. Recent property tax assessments showed the total value of nearly 24,000 pieces of property in the county was up 58 percent from 2005. All private land in Valley County was valued at \$2.6 billion in 2005. This year the total value is \$4.1 billion. Since 2004, total assessed valuation of private land has gone up 128 percent.

#### **Adams County**

- The city of Council is applying for a \$500,000 Rural Community Block Grant for a new building in the business park for robotics manufacturer Composite Systems Inc. Council will match the grant by donating the land for the building and providing city equipment and personnel to do some of the work. The city is also applying for a \$50,000 Gem Grant to help bring Composite Systems Inc. to Council. The owners of the company want to be up and running by the fall of 2007 and will be initially hiring 25 to 30 people at between \$10 and \$20 an hour plus benefits.
- Brundage Mountain Resort and the Payette National Forest recently completed a land swap that gives Brundage 388 acres of land surrounding the base of the mountain the resort is built on while the Payette National Forest gets 350 acres of wetlands and streams with bull trout, salmon and steelhead habitat.
- With expiration of its subdivision moratorium, the Adams County Commission has adopted a new comprehensive plan and updated subdivision and zoning ordinances. In addition, the county also adopted a requirement that 10 percent of lots within a development be designated for affordable housing. The lots can be outside the development if the county approves.

#### **Elmore County**

- Mayfield is the proposed location for a large new planned community. The development contemplates 5,000 building lots on 1,800 acres. WRG Design Inc., which has offices all over the northwest including an office in Boise, is the developer.
- Construction is moving along on the Marathon Cheese facility in Mountain Home. The foundation work has been completed and support beams for the walls have been erected. According to the Moun-

tain Home Economic Development Office, the Marathon facility should be fully staffed and running by early 2007.

- Northwest Motor Sports has announced plans to build a giant \$200 million motor speedway on 1,600 acres in Elmore County just off Simco Road. The project is being called War Eagle Speedways and will include seven tracks from a 1 ¼ mile oval to a BMX super track and include an indoor track and convention center. The estimated date for completion on the speedway is spring 2008.
- An election will be held Aug. 1 for a proposed \$17.6 million expansion of the Elmore Medical Center in Mountain Home. The money would finance a 31,000 square-foot expansion and modernization to meet the needs of Elmore County's rapidly growing population.

#### **Boise County**

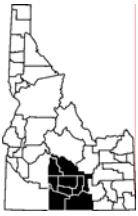
- Ultimate Log and Custom Homes, located at the old sawmill in Horseshoe Bend, has just begun the first phase of its long awaited Riverbend Development on 75 acres near the old mill. Construction is expected to create at least 30 jobs in Horseshoe Bend, most likely being filled by the local work force. Phase one consists of 56 homes on 9.2 acres, 14 being affordable housing costing no more than \$136,100. The requirement is mandated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Division. Phase two will involve a gated community on 29 acres with homes starting around \$400,000. Phase three calls for town homes overlooking the Payette River. The Riverbend Development will also include 19 acres for retail businesses and 17 acres for light manufacturing.

#### **Washington County**

- Jon-Lin Foods of Weiser, which purchased Appleton Produce in 2004, recently announced the production facility will close by mid-August, putting over 250 people out of work. The employees will be receiving an undisclosed severance package and help finding new jobs. Jon-Lin Foods was able to sell its two other processing plants in Colton, Calif., and Marlin, Texas, to McCain Foods, but McCain was not interested in the Weiser facility.

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# South Central Idaho News

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Twin Falls/Jerome Micropolitan Statistical Area was 3.2 percent for May. This is one-tenth of a percentage point higher than April but four-tenths of a point lower than May 2005. The civilian labor force increased year-over-year to 50,490.

South central Idaho continues to be very hot for job seekers in 2006. Both residential and heavy construction is in full swing, and construction employment increased 17.4 percent from May 2005 with no signs of slowing. Twin Falls and Jerome are on a pace to break the building records set in 2005. Additional construction is taking place at the new Crossroads Development, and work on the temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is in full swing. Only a major increase in mortgage rates could significantly affect activity in the near term.

Manufacturing other than food processing posted a 10.6 percent gain in jobs over the year while transportation and warehousing employment was up over 24 percent and retail trade rose 9 percent. Strong retail activity is no surprise since consumer confidence in the area is higher than ever. Workers feel secure in their employment, and wages have improved although the region is typically low compared to the rest of the state. There is a tremendous upswing in the transportation and storage of goods and services. Many cheese producers in the area need to transport and store their whey products, but the price of fuel is of increasing concern. In south central Idaho, the average price is nearing \$3 a gallon. This is a large variable cost that is being passed on to the consumer when possible. In addition, workers with commutes of over 10 miles have experienced over a 50 percent increase in fuel costs, and if

South Central Idaho Table 1: Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment—Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	May 2006*	Apr 2006	May 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	50,550	54,080	48,490	-6.5	4.2
Unemployment	1,620	1,660	1,730	-2.4	-6.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.1	3.6		
Total Employment	48,930	52,420	46,760	-6.7	4.6
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	50,630	53,590	48,560	-5.5	4.3
Unemployment	1,420	1,630	1,540	-12.9	-7.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	3.0	3.2		
Total Employment	49,210	51,960	47,020	-5.3	4.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	39,460	39,150	37,250	0.8	5.9
<b>Goods-Providing Industries</b>	6,760	6,620	6,170	2.1	9.6
Natural Resources & Mining	50	40	40	25.0	25.0
Construction	2,290	2,170	1,950	5.5	17.4
Manufacturing	4,420	4,410	4,180	0.2	5.7
Food Manufacturing	2,430	2,450	2,380	-0.8	2.1
Other Manufacturing	1,990	1,960	1,800	1.5	10.6
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	32,700	32,530	31,080	0.5	5.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,020	9,890	8,990	1.3	11.5
Wholesale Trade	1,910	1,910	1,780	0.0	7.3
Retail Trade	5,810	5,700	5,330	1.9	9.0
Utilities	160	160	160	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	2,140	2,120	1,720	0.9	24.4
Information	610	610	620	0.0	-1.6
Financial Activities	1,740	1,740	1,660	0.0	4.8
Professional & Business Services	5,130	5,000	5,060	2.6	1.4
Educational & Health Services	3,450	3,450	3,260	0.0	5.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,210	3,210	3,160	0.0	1.6
Other Services	1,380	1,370	1,350	0.7	2.2
Government Education	3,260	3,390	3,230	-3.8	0.9
Government Administration	3,900	3,870	3,750	0.8	4.0

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

wages are marginal, they may not be able to afford to stay with their existing employers. The Blaine County area has experienced very low unemployment and already has faced the problem of lack of affordable housing, pushing service sector workers into commutes that typically total 150 miles a day. High fuel prices have had a strong impact on that work force, making consideration of car pooling and some form of public transportation necessary if fuel costs remain high as expected.

The picture this year has improved for agriculture. Snowpack and water levels are at their highest in years. Virtually every reservoir is filled to capacity. Key crops are ahead of recent years, and farm hiring is at or above average levels. Idaho's milk production has been increasing. In 2005, it totaled 10.2 billion pounds, up 12 percent from 2004 with the amount per cow up 886 pounds to 22,332 pounds.

Through this May, production is running 8 percent ahead of the first five months of 2005, primarily the result of a 2.5 percent increase in the dairy herd. Idaho cash receipts for marketing milk last year were \$1.42 billion, 4 percent higher than 2004.

However, not everything is good in agriculture. There is deep concern over a water call issued by the Idaho Department of Water Resources that affects about 1,300 wells. In January 2005, the department initially issued the call, demanding that the irrigators relying on those 1,300 wells release the equivalent of 27,006 acre-feet of water to the Twin Falls Canal Co. for surface water irrigation and other uses. The department acted on a petition filed by the Surface Water Coalition, made up of seven surface water canal companies and irrigation districts in the region. That original call was not enforced to give the state and others a year to resolve the dispute in which surface water users claim their supplies are being depleted by the deep wells increasingly used for irrigation. Under the renewed call, if groundwater users with water rights dated May 27, 1979, or later fail to respond, their well pumping will be curtailed and possibly halted. The situation was clouded further by 5th District Judge Barry Wood's recent decision voiding Idaho's rules on how the department manages ground and surface water. If wells are shut down, there is a possibility that employment in the region will be adversely affected.

#### AREA DEVELOPMENTS

##### Cassia and Minidoka Counties

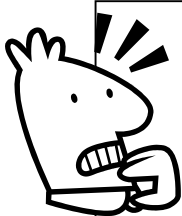
- On June 20, Idaho Gov. Jim Risch, accompanied by Idaho Commerce & Labor Director Roger B.

Madsen, presented the city of Burley \$150,000 for infrastructure improvements to the M.H. King warehouse, which is being renovated for Mulholland Position Systems Inc.'s new manufacturing plant. Mulholland makes gait assistance devices for adults and children with cerebral palsy. Mulholland plans to hire 30 to 50 people for manufacturing jobs when it opens later this year. Risch also visited Minidoka Memorial Hospital in Rupert where he presented the hospital with a \$448,311 grant to finance a new surgery center.

- Risch and Madsen also met with residents from Minidoka and Cassia counties on the impending closure of Kraft Cheese in Rupert. The company is closing the plant at the end of the year as part of its new business strategy. This will affect 167 people. Risch assured the residents that state government will use every resource available to minimize the impact of the job loss. He was optimistic that, based on the interest already expressed, the plant will be bought by someone in the cheese industry. Efforts to recruit a buyer will begin once an inventory of the plant is completed so that a new company might be ready to step in as soon as Kraft closes.

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#### DON'T LET THIS ISSUE BE YOUR LAST!

This is the issue with the short survey that will let us know what you want to see in this newsletter and how you want to receive it. It's also your opportunity to get your monthly newsletter online.

Please fill out the survey on the inside back page and return it in the postage paid return envelope that is included. OR you can take the survey online at <http://lmi.idaho.gov/survey>. We value your opinion and hope to continue providing you with the economic condition of Idaho.



# Southeastern Idaho News

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA & POWER COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

May, and in fact the entire spring and summer, are typically full of economic activity. As summer approaches, people begin looking for jobs, businesses and municipalities begin hiring additional workers for the busy summer season and schools begin preparing to close for their summer break. Employment opportunities abound with tourists flowing through the area frequenting hotels, restaurants, retail stores and recreational facilities, and local residents begin their spring and summer home improvement and landscaping projects. It also is the peak season for construction, which ripples through many other industries such as wholesale trade, transportation, finance and real estate. This May was no exception, and the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area showed more than a 2 percent increase from April in both its labor force and employment. Since the number of unemployed workers increased only fractionally, the unemployment rate remained steady at 3.6 percent – nearly a full percentage point lower than a year ago. The number of nonfarm payroll jobs increased by more than 1,000 in May to 40,230. Job gains occurred in all levels of government through seasonal hiring in firefighting, road construction and road and park maintenance, retailers took on help to maintain merchandise and serve customers, and the leisure and hospitality industry boosted payrolls to meet increased activity in hotels and restaurants and at summer recreation facilities.

The area economy continues to show improvement from one year ago. Fueled by robust construction activity, which is visible throughout all of southeastern Idaho, jobs were also created in the related industries of wholesale and retail trade, finance and business services.

Southeastern Idaho Table 1: Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bannock and Power counties

	May 2006*	Apr 2006	May 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	45,830	44,870	41,640	2.1	10.1
Unemployment	1,650	1,640	1,770	0.6	-6.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.6	4.2		
Total Employment	44,180	43,230	39,870	2.2	10.8
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	45,950	45,570	41,730	0.8	10.1
Unemployment	1,420	1,660	1,550	-14.5	-8.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.7	3.7		
Total Employment	44,530	43,910	41,730	1.4	6.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	40,230	39,180	38,400	2.7	4.8
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>					
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	20	0.0	50.0
Construction	2,490	2,400	2,320	3.8	7.3
Manufacturing	3,370	3,440	3,360	-2.0	0.3
Food Manufacturing	970	1,010	960	-4.0	1.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	150	150	150	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	100	100	80	0.0	25.0
Other Manufacturing	2,150	2,180	2,170	-1.4	-0.9
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>					
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,510	7,410	7,220	1.3	4.0
Wholesale Trade	1,390	1,390	1,300	0.0	6.9
Retail Trade	4,680	4,580	4,500	2.2	4.0
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,390	1,390	1,370	0.0	1.5
Information	750	740	730	1.4	2.7
Financial Activities	2,130	2,140	2,070	-0.5	2.9
Professional & Business Services	5,080	5,080	4,640	0.0	9.5
Educational & Health Services	3,400	3,430	3,290	-0.9	3.3
Leisure & Hospitality	3,460	3,360	3,530	3.0	-2.0
Other Services	1,240	1,230	1,240	0.8	0.0
Government Education	5,990	6,220	5,540	-3.7	8.1
Government Administration	4,780	4,390	4,440	8.9	7.7

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

## AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

### Bannock County

- Essential Rhythm, an urban fashion store, opened in Pocatello. Owned by Mike and Michelle Seniff, it offers clothing, handbags and accessories from New York, Los Angeles, Miami and San Francisco. The couple have been conducting business on eBay for a number of years and opened their store in March.
- Sportsman's Warehouse will open in Pocatello. The company plans to build in the Pocatello Town Square development. It broke ground in June and expects to open before the end of the year.

The 50,000 square-foot store will employ between 70 and 80 people.

- Village Crafts in Chubbuck and Crafts & Frames in Pocatello have closed. Crafts & Frames will open in the former Village Crafts store in Chubbuck soon.
- Macy's has announced plans to close its store in the Pine Ridge Mall in Chubbuck. The store originally opened as The Bon when the mall opened in 1981 and employs about 60.
- A new Starbucks coffee shop opened inside Pocatello's Fred Meyer. The store recently remodeled to accommodate the new shop and a sushi bar. Together Starbucks and the sushi bar employ 12.
- Two banks broke ground on new facilities in the area. Bank of Idaho is building a second facility in the Tuscany Plaza, and D.L. Evans Bank is building a second location near the new Pocatello Town Square.
- Sweeping changes are occurring in Pocatello's Old Town. Two years ago, water and sewer lines were replaced and new curbs, sidewalks, pavers and trees were added on Main Street. Work continues on the Arthur Street part of the project. Several businesses have renovated buildings in the area.
  - » Zion's Bank is operating from an upgraded US Bank.
  - » Citizens Community Bank renovated the old post office and will use it for its corporate headquarters.
  - » Dell's Mountain Electric has undergone a complete renovation and reopened as Dell's Home Appliance and Mattress Center. The business has added a kitchen art center with several kitchen displays.
  - » The old Credit Bureau building will be renovated for the Greater Pocatello Chamber of Commerce and the Pocatello Visitors and Convention Bureau.
  - » The former Just Desserts is being upgraded and will become the location for a new fine-dining restaurant, The Dining Room, operated by the owner of the Boullion Soup.
  - » The former Shanghai Café is being renovated to house The Porterhouse, a southern-style steakhouse.
  - » The Southeastern Idaho Farmers Market, which has been held in the Pocatello City Hall parking lot, moved to Old Town this year. The market is now held in the Union Pacific Railroad parking lot. The old Union Pacific Signal Shop, adjacent to the parking lot, will be renovated through

grants and donated labor to provide additional space for the market.

- Four Old Town businesses have closed: Arthur's Coffee Emporium, Lee Aikin Sports Shop, Michelle's City Lights restaurant and Rowan's Sandwich Shop in Station Square.

#### **Bear Lake County**

- Progress continues on the development of an industrial park in Montpelier. The city has been approved for a rural community block grant to help fund the project.

#### **Bingham County**

- Bingham Memorial Hospital, in partnership with the Idaho Kidney Institute, will open a dialysis center. The Idaho Kidney Institute is owned by Drs. Naeem and Fahim Rahim, and they will operate the dialysis center at the hospital. They have centers in both Pocatello and Idaho Falls. The center at Bingham Memorial will provide weekly dialysis services for 25 Blackfoot residents, who currently travel to neighboring cities for treatment.
- Taylor Real Estate celebrated the official opening of its new office building in Blackfoot. Owner Jed Taylor said the new building will help fulfill the business's mission of providing the highest level of service and professionalism to its clients.

#### **Caribou County**

- Monsanto is undergoing a major pollution control and production expansion at its facility in Soda Springs. The \$55 million project will add 13 jobs.

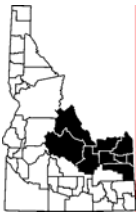
#### **Franklin County**

- Stokes Food Store in Preston has nearly completed its three-phase, \$2 million expansion.

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# East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area posted a 2.9 percent unemployment rate for May, up fractionally from the month before as the civilian labor force rose slightly. But May's rate was a third of a point below the year-ago level despite the labor force growing by over 2,300 people. Total unemployed decreased by 90 as seen in East Central Idaho Table 1. Job growth in all industries from the same time last year is keeping the rate low and helping the area continue to grow. Retail sectors, construction and professional and business support services are very strong. All other counties in east central Idaho ranged between 2.8 percent and 5 percent unemployment. Idaho Falls' rate was 2.9 percent. The state rate was 3.5 percent.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- Destinations Inn, the downtown luxury theme hotel that underwent major interior remodeling of a 100-year-old building for the location effects, is now open. The 14 suites each feature a different theme: England, Egypt, Paris, Arabia, Alaska, Congo, Thailand, Rio de Janeiro, New York, Morocco, Venice, Washington D.C., Rome and Hawaii. Owner and visionary Rob Bishop pulled this all off, sparing no expense to make the customers feel like they are really on a vacation far away from Idaho Falls. Each room has a king-size bed, chromatherapy Champagne Bubbler bathtub, stereo projection TV and elaborate lighting. Some even have aromatherapy steam showers. Sleeping in a Sheik's tent, walking down a drawbridge or exploring a hidden diamond mine are only three possible adventures. Although honeymooners are expected to be the target customers, Bishop says the hotel is for all people with romantic bones in their bodies. Exquisitely lovely with

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	May 2006*	Apr 2006	May 2005	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,950	62,870	60,620	0.1	3.8
Unemployment	1,830	1,780	1,920	2.8	-4.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9%	2.8%	3.2%		
Total Employment	61,120	61,090	58,700	0.0	4.1
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,730	61,790	60,390	1.5	3.9
Unemployment	1,440	1,720	1,550	-16.3	-7.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3%	2.8%	2.6%		
Total Employment	61,290	60,070	58,840	2.0	4.2
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	54,430	54,140	50,850	0.5	7.0
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	7,500	7,320	6,750	2.5	11.1
Natural Resources & Mining	60	50	40	20.0	50.0
Construction	4,170	4,000	3,580	4.3	16.5
Manufacturing	3,270	3,270	3,130	0.0	4.5
Food Manufacturing	1,060	1,060	1,060	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	270	270	210	0.0	28.6
Machinery Manufacturing	150	150	160	0.0	-6.3
Other Manufacturing	1,790	1,790	1,700	0.0	5.3
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	46,930	46,820	44,100	0.2	6.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,560	13,430	12,660	1.0	7.1
Wholesale Trade	4,300	4,270	3,940	0.7	9.1
Retail Trade	7,590	7,500	7,190	1.2	5.6
Utilities	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,610	1,600	1,470	0.6	9.5
Information	1,190	1,170	1,110	1.7	7.2
Financial Activities	2,120	2,120	1,950	0.0	8.7
Professional & Business Services	9,680	9,930	8,880	-2.5	9.0
Educational & Health Services	6,930	3,940	6,560	75.9	5.6
Leisure & Hospitality	4,480	4,390	4,170	2.1	7.4
Other Services	2,020	2,000	1,940	1.0	4.1
Government Education	3,610	3,580	3,540	0.8	2.0
Government Administration	3,340	3,260	3,290	2.5	1.5

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

five-star accommodations, Destinations Inn information can be found at <http://www.destinationsinn.com> and quick walk-throughs can even be arranged at off-hours after checking with the front desk.

- United Express now offers two daily round-trip flights to Denver from the Idaho Falls Regional Airport. This is an expansion into the Idaho Falls market by SkyWest, which is the Delta Connection from Salt Lake City. The 50- and 70-seat jets depart from Idaho Falls at 7:30 a.m. and 1:22 p.m. and arrive from Denver early afternoon and late



night except Saturday, when arrival is mid-evening. The regional airport now has direct flights to Denver, Minneapolis, Seattle, Salt Lake City and Las Vegas.

- Eastern Idaho Technical College held a groundbreaking ceremony in late May for the new health education building that the school will share with Idaho State University. The building is within a mile of Idaho Falls' large hospital. The \$10 million, 45,000 square-foot building will be two stories and just across from the entrance of Wal-Mart. It will house Eastern Idaho Technical College's associate degree registered nurse program and Idaho State's nurse training programs ranging from licensed practical nursing to masters-level registered nursing. It also offers radiation technology and respiratory therapy programs. It will include 14 standard classrooms, two distance learning classrooms and two large classrooms along with simulated operating and inpatient care rooms. A dental facility with 10 chairs will be fully-functional and open to the public for training purposes. This cooperative arrangement has been in the works for many years and will open the way for increased training for a high-demand industry that will only grow as more medical attention is sought by retiring baby boomers in an area where the population is growing significantly.

#### Lemhi County

- A total of \$350,000 from Salmon High School alumnus Brad Duke of Meridian and Bart Templeman of Coeur d'Alene will make it possible for the high school to get a seven-lane, all-weather track and a new fence, a new well and underground sprinkler system. Construction should be completed by the end of summer.

#### Madison County

- Applebee's has submitted site plans to the city of Rexburg and is preparing to submit the building application for a location near the South Rexburg exit off U.S. Highway 20. Rexburg has been talking with the company for several weeks about permits and signage. The city has been asking for a large, family-style restaurant for some time. Local liquor laws have been a stumbling block in the past, and it is still unclear if the restaurant will be allowed to offer liquor. If everything goes through, this will make the 11<sup>th</sup> Applebee's in Idaho.
- Brigham Young University-Idaho in Rexburg is still expanding. The university will finally get an auditorium that can seat all of its students at the same time. Right now, the Hart Auditorium can only accommodate 4,200 people, about 35 percent of the

student body. The new auditorium and activity center will seat 12,000 to 15,000, comparable in size to Idaho State University's Holt Arena, which seats 12,000, or Boise State University's Taco Bell Arena, which seats 13,000. The activity center will also include eight outdoor basketball courts. The ground is already being leveled just behind the John Hart Physical Education Building. The Eliza R. Snow Performing Arts Building's 40,000 square-foot addition is near completion, two new soccer-softball artificial turf fields and two natural grass fields are to be completed this fall just south of the campus and planning has begun on a 100,000 square-foot addition to the Hyrum Manwaring Student Center to add more study, bookstore and food service space and enclose the walkway between the center and the library. Since two-year Ricks College became Brigham Young University-Idaho five years ago, the university has added six buildings and remodeled many others.

- On June 20, Gov. Jim Risch personally presented three \$500,000 Community Development Block Grants for Rexburg and Madison County. One \$500,000 grant will help finance a new training facility for Upper Valley Industries in the Rexburg Business Park. The Upper Valley Industries provides employment for those with disabilities. A second grant will help develop a new downtown square that will include improved city parking. The square will be located where the old Madison Co-op sits on East Main Street and the alley behind it. The third grant is for a county ATV trail. The block grants come from the Department of Housing and Urban Development through Idaho Commerce & Labor. All the projects mesh with the plan that was developed several years ago by the city for serving its community better.

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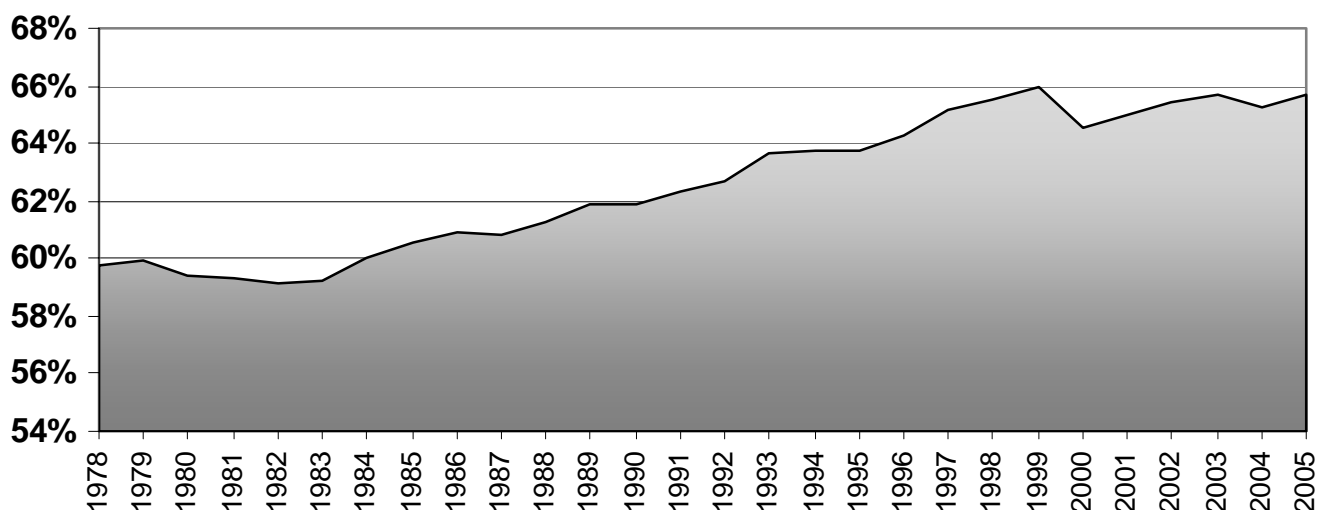
## ECONOMIC TURMOIL IN '80s DRIVES IDAHO JOBS, POPULATION TO CITIES

The severe economic disruptions that hit Idaho in waves from 1979 through 1986 provided the catalyst for a restructured state economy that began draining rural communities of their comparatively high-paying manufacturing and natural resource-based jobs.

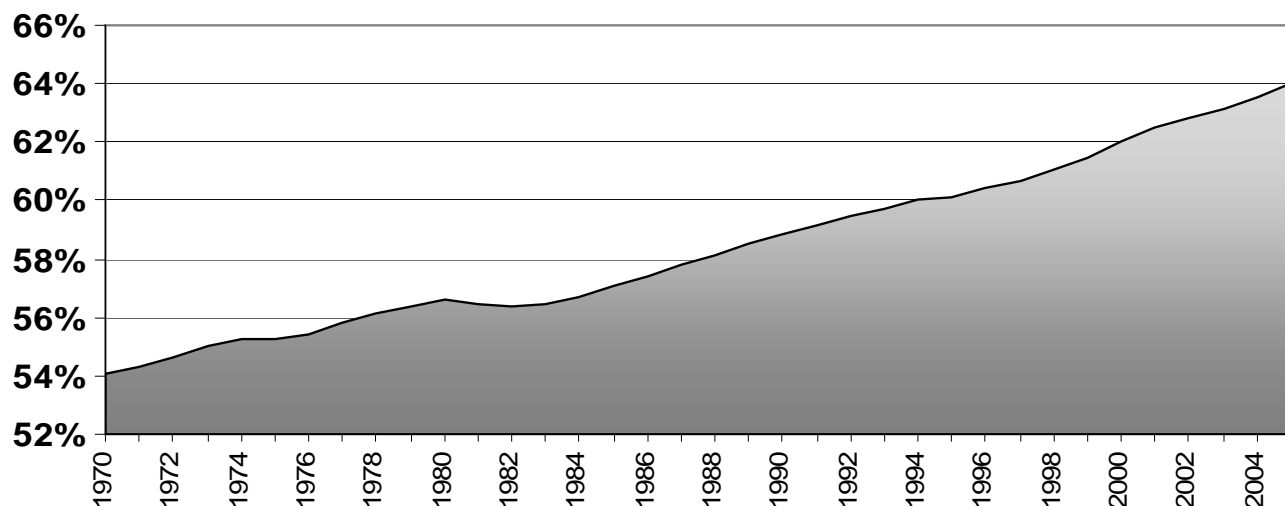
As the new Idaho economy began evolving in 1987, it diversified away from the natural resources so rich in rural communities and vital to their health.

People from both inside and outside the state began migrating to Idaho's urban centers of Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Twin Falls and Idaho Falls. That migration steadily widened the population gap between Idaho's rural and urban counties, and the jobs have followed the people to Idaho's seven urban counties – Ada, Bannock, Bonneville, Canyon, Kootenai, Nez Perce and Twin Falls.

FYI Chart 1: Idaho's Urban Employment in Percentages, 1978-2005



FYI Chart 2: Idaho's Urban Population in Percentages, 1978-2005



The slow growth of the 1960s gave way to dramatic expansion in the 1970s as the baby-boom generation came of age and began forming households. The 20-something segment of the Idaho population doubled during the decade.

In 1983, Richard Slaughter, who was the state's chief economist then, concluded that Idaho's economy in the 1970s had been invigorated by a sustained and growing national demand for its natural resources, primarily wood products.

Accelerating inflation during the last half of the decade combined with a monetary policy that focused on low interest rates and favorable tax laws led more and more people to view housing as a solid investment, Slaughter pointed out.

Nationally, housing starts averaged more than 1.75 million a year during the 1970s, and half those years saw starts at or above 2 million.

Workers in the lumber and wood products sector, largely in rural Idaho, peaked at nearly 19,000 in both 1978 and 1979, accounting for a third of the state's

manufacturing employment. The sector was far and away Idaho's goods-producing leader.

The state's rural and urban populations grew at relatively similar rates. That kept the urban population between 54 percent and 56 percent through the 1970s and into the early 1980s, giving rural towns the growth necessary to maintain infrastructure and a comparatively healthy business climate.

But then the national recession hit.

By 1982, Idaho had lost 26,000 jobs, 8 percent of its nonfarm employment. Over 10,000 were in manufacturing, nearly 8,000 of them in lumber and wood products and another 6,000 were in construction. Mining lost over a quarter of its work force.

And just as the state appeared on the verge of recovery, it was hit by another recession — to some a near depression.

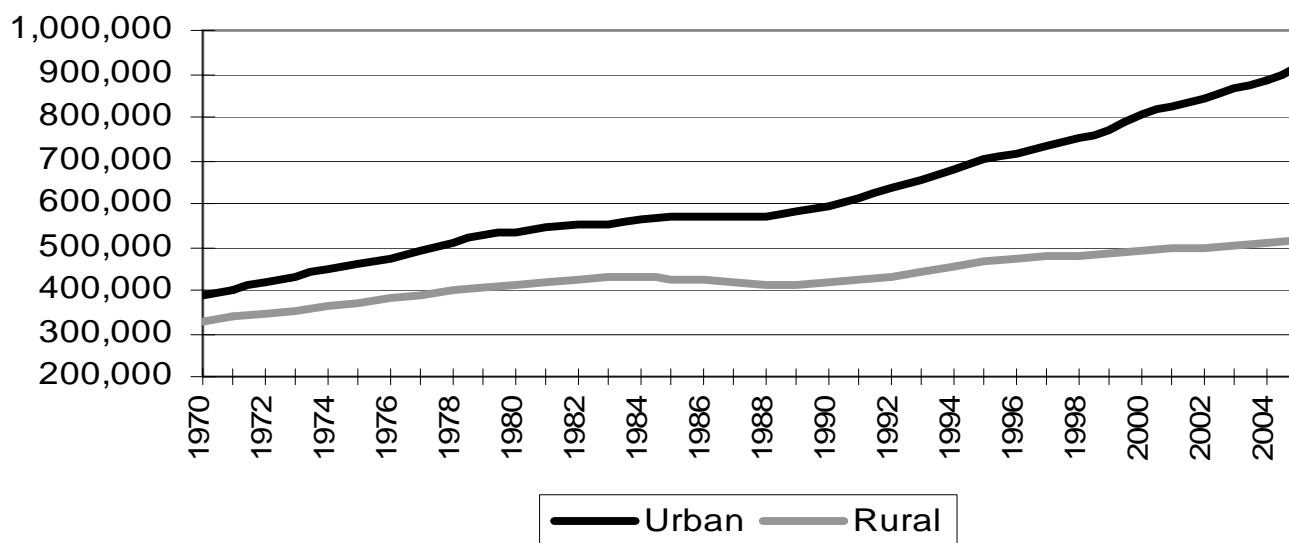
Idaho's cornerstone industries were hit hard a second time. Timber's move toward recovery stalled, and employment dropped back toward the 1982 level, accounting for just a quarter of the manufacturing sec-

FYI Table 1: Changes in Employment 1978-2004, Rural Compared to Urban

Rural			Sector	Urban		
1978	2004	% Change		1,978	2004	% Change
12,180	50,456	314.3%	Services	34,871	165,488	374.6%
18,762	20,332	8.4%	Retail	39,523	52,839	33.7%
6,549	6,469	-1.2%	Wholesale	15,164	15,209	0.3%
22,723	16,871	-25.8%	Manufacturing	33,107	38,248	15.5%
3,948	9,379	137.6%	Construction	15,626	29,490	88.7%
3,186	1,527	-52.1%	Mining	202	454	124.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns.

FYI Chart 3: Annual Urban-Rural Population 1970-2005



tor. Food processing stagnated as farm production slipped, and mining lost another 1,000 jobs, never having started any significant recovery.

The huge population of 20-somethings who had been the growth engine for Idaho with their housing purchases in the 1970s, now showed another characteristic that worked against the state – their mobility.

Over 10,000 Idaho residents left the state in 1986, the first population loss in 16 years. And thousands more moved from rural towns to the emerging metropolitan areas where the new businesses and jobs were locating.

Even though what was to become one of Idaho's longest economic expansions finally began in 1987, by the 1990 census 19 counties lost population, nearly 9 percent overall, and most of them were the state's smallest and most rural. Well over 15,000 people moved out during the 1980s.

In the same span, primarily the last four years of the decade, the metropolitan areas grew by 59,000, nearly 15 percent, signaling what is now an ever-widening gap between rural and urban Idaho, not just in population but in jobs.

While the expansion catapulted Idaho into the national forefront of economic activity, it was a different economy.

Timber and mining, which had been the backbone of many rural communities, were clearly losing ground. Environmental and other pressures were limiting access to timber on public lands and new technology was making many Idaho production operations outdated. Mills were closing with regularity.

The amount of timber from public lands feeding Idaho wood products production slumped from over 50 percent in the late 1980s and early 1990s to less than 30 percent by 2003. The harvest off the national forests in Idaho plunged over 80 percent – all of this amid solid growth in the nation's housing market.

At the same time, the high technology sector and its many spin-offs were evolving in Idaho's metropolitan centers where the pool of skilled workers was adequate and good transportation was easily accessible.

Both rural and urban Idaho got their share of the developing service economy. But it is clear from 1978 to 2004 that the jobs, particularly the traditionally higher-paying manufacturing jobs, were gravitating to the cities.

While service sector growth was over 300 percent during that quarter century across the state, retail jobs followed the people. Retail growth was four times faster in urban Idaho than in rural counties.

But manufacturing and mining tell the tale. While rural counties lost 29 percent of those jobs, the urban counties picked up 16 percent in those sectors. Mining losses were especially harsh for rural Idaho because those counties had nearly all those jobs.

Construction was up across the state and significantly in rural counties, but much of that activity was in so-called commuter counties, where residents typically work in the adjoining cities.

While some of the smallest counties, which had little in the way of manufacturing employment in 1978 picked up manufacturing jobs, 19 of the 37 rural counties lost them, four posting declines of over 80 percent. Three more just held their own.

In the past several years, some inroads have been made in rebuilding the manufacturing payrolls in rural counties. With the help of the Rural Idaho Initiative, various other incentives and aggressive recruiting at the state and local levels, a number of plants have been located in Idaho and several existing operations have expanded.

The dairy industry has expanded significantly in south central and southwestern Idaho and that has brought new cheese production to the area. Recreational and livestock trailer and vehicle manufacturers have located three plants in the same area, cultured stone production has begun in southeastern Idaho and a log home building has expanded in central Idaho.

Each produced dozens of new jobs. But those successes and others have still only begun to extend back into rural Idaho the economic prosperity many of those communities enjoyed a quarter century ago.

*Note: Tables showing the breakdown of industry sector employment by urban counties and rural counties are on page 26.*

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FYI Table 2: Urban Counties

County	Manufacturing		Construction		Mining		Retail	
	2004	1978	2004	1978	2004	1978	2004	1978
Ada	20,005	9,752	15,466	7,765	133	72	20,796	13,995
Bannock	2,737	4,639	1,311	1,232	10	50	4,532	4,984
Bonneville	2,510	2,150	2,957	2,628	10	10	6,906	5,462
Canyon	3,077	7,065	3,979	1,277	64	10	6,149	4,717
Kootenai	4,048	3,120	3,708	943	75	0	6,559	3,245
Nez Perce	2,834	3,786	716	660	151	10	2,941	3,280
Twin Falls	3,037	2,595	1,353	1,121	31	50	4,956	3,840

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns

FYI Table 3: Rural Counties

County	Manufacturing		Construction		Mining		Retail	
	2004	1978	2004	1978	2004	1978	2004	1978
Adams	87	277	78	10	0	0	109	78
Bear Lake	66	101	20	36	0	0	283	330
Benewah	529	978	73	43	53	27	307	286
Bingham	2,029	2,522	698	557	0	0	1,613	1,327
Blaine	361	312	1,874	313	50	0	1,698	1,277
Boise	50	350	118	10	10	10	84	72
Bonner	1,999	1,513	1,274	287	69	0	1,717	1,158
Boundary	367	535	234	54	0	0	397	321
Butte	50	10	10	10	0	0	100	132
Camas	50	10	10	10	0	0	50	14
Caribou	750	750	206	72	530	460	301	350
Cassia	942	1,756	361	247	51	10	1,099	1,591
Clark	175	10	0	10	0	10	50	43
Clearwater	241	1,432	64	55	0	0	250	472
Custer	10	10	48	11	175	50	153	110
Elmore	269	359	261	206	1-19	10	948	795
Franklin	229	113	125	50	50	10	449	373
Fremont	200	172	50	104	10	0	292	397
Gem	129	750	179	49	10	10	375	438
Gooding	339	124	229	111	0	0	452	407
Idaho	503	960	239	89	54	50	519	545
Jefferson	921	685	423	103	10	0	474	464
Jerome	983	1,109	297	195	0	0	931	462
Latah	354	893	389	221	10	10	1,951	1,935
Lemhi	113	452	148	39	10	10	386	418
Lewis	87	393	10	9	10	0	123	215
Lincoln	175	50	50	10	0	0	78	60
Madison	1,295	578	296	397	0	0	1,503	1,113
Minidoka	1,003	2,061	273	127	0	0	775	592
Oneida	50	50	50	10	50	50	126	148
Owyhee	127	50	116	78	0	175	248	218
Payette	1,213	795	182	153	10	0	562	465
Power	586	750	82	36	0	0	224	350
Shoshone	178	1,332	159	54	355	2,209	700	881
Teton	79	10	312	18	0	0	274	138
Valley	20-99	146	348	78	10	0	452	410
Washington	332	325	93	86	0	85	279	377

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns

\* In several instances, job numbers in specific sectors for some counties are estimated because the Census Bureau provides only a range of employment due to the dominance of a single employer in that sector in that county. In these cases, the mid-point of the range was used.

# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

**Agriculture Employment:** Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

**Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours:** The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Average Weekly Earnings:** Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

**Civilian Labor Force:** A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

**Covered Employers:** Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

**Durable Goods:** Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

**Employed:** Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

**Initial Claim:** Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

**Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA):** Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

**Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA):** Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban

centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

**Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment:** Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

**Nondurable Goods:** Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

**Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA):** Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

**Unemployed:** Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

**Unemployment Insurance:** Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

**Unemployment Rate:** The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

**Weekly Benefit Amount:** The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

**Weeks Claimed:** The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

**Weeks Compensated:** The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

*Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below. Don't forget the last question so you will keep receiving Idaho Employment!*

1. What newsletter sections are valuable to you? Please rate the value of each section by circling one from 1 to 5 (1- least valuable, 5= most valuable)

Labor force & nonfarm data	1	2	3	4	5
Regional news	1	2	3	4	5
FYI	1	2	3	4	5
State overview	1	2	3	4	5
Overall newsletter	1	2	3	4	5

2. How often should Idaho Employment be published? (please check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly

\_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly (includes monthly data)

3. What other economic indicators would you like to see in the newsletter?

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4. Do you use the Labor Market Information Web site – [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

5. If yes, how often do you go to [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Daily

\_\_\_\_\_ Weekly

\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly

\_\_\_\_\_ Once in awhile

6. Idaho Employment could be improved by adding the following data or making the following changes:

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You now can get the Idaho Employment newsletter online instead of the mail. Just supply your e-mail address and we'll do the rest!

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to continue receiving the paper copy, please indicate that below and provide your current mailing information.

Yes, I'd like to continue receiving a paper copy. Send to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_



**THANK YOU!**